

CONFIDENTIAL

Sheet No. 1 War Diary, 306th BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H)

Month of DECEMBER 1942. Prepared by CAPT. WILEY W. GLASS

DAY	EVENTS
1	<p>Past card received from Lt. Al LaChasse that he was a prisoner of war. This was the first word received from any man of the Group officially posted as "Missing in Action".</p>
7	<p>Major Oliver relieved from assignment as CO of the 369th Squadron and attached to Group Operations. Captain Terry of the 367th Squadron was assigned to the 369th as Squadron Commander.            Capt. Raper, 1st. Lt. Ross and 2nd. Lt. Fryer of the 368th Squadron were sent on detached service to ferry a number of high ranking officers to the scene of our African invasion. They completed three trips before returning to their unit here.</p>
9.	<p>Under authority of the Air Ministry and Commanding General ETO, it is directed to transfer RAF Station, Thurleigh from Royal Air Force to the United States Army Air Force, said transfer to take effect at 1200 hours, this date.            The Command of this Station, including responsibility for local Defense, is assigned to Col. C.B. Overacker, 306th Bombardment Group (H) by Order Commanding General, 1st. Bombardment Wing, U.S. Army Air Force.            This is first instance of officially transferring an RAF Station to U.S. Army Air Forces.</p>
12	<p>Seventeen of our A/C took off for Romilly-sur-Seine. Six returned because of malfunctions. Heavy 10/10 clouds were encountered over the primary target and the formation of eleven A/C swung back to bomb the Secondary, the railroad yards at Rouen. Results of bombing could not be clearly seen because of overcast. About 50 E/A were encountered both to and from the target. In a running fight we destroyed 14 E/A and 5 probables. 2nd. Lt. Olds of the 367th, Lt. Bergen and Sgt. Spiro of the 368th, Sgts. Langley and Schulz of the 423rd were wounded. Crews participating in this mission were Capt. Ryan 367th, Maj. Lanford, Capt. Regan, Lts. Eddenbaum, Reber and Smith of the 368th and Capts. McKay, Brady, Lts. Warner, Check, Riordan of the 423rd.</p>
19	<p>Mission to airdrome at Romilly-sur-Seine, led by Lt. Col. Wilson. Nineteen A/C took off and 15 bombed primary with good visibility and results. Three of our A/C did not return. Lts. McKesson, McKee and Hyggard, all of the 367th, were shot down over and before reaching the target. Lt. Farr of the 369th was killed by flak. Some 50 to 70 E/A made three separate attacks, 1st on approach to Rouen, 2nd. near target and 3rd. on the way to Beauvais. E/A encountered were Ju 88's Me 109E's and F's, as well as FW 109's. Lt. Hogan, 368th, and Sgt.</p>

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Sheet No. 2 War Diary, 306th BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H)Month of DECEMBER 1942. Prepared by CAPT. WILEY W. GLASS

DAY

## EVENTS

(cont'd from Sheet No. 1)

Lightbown of 369th were severely wounded, others slightly. Our score for the day, 12 E/A destroyed and 6 probably destroyed.

- 25 Routine schedule except a good Christmas dinner of turkey and trimmings served to all officers and enlisted men.
- 30 Raid planned for Lorient, turned back at the Channel because of abortions, leaving only 9 ships in formation, less than orders called for. Capt. Brady of the 423rd took off later than our Group formation and joined up with the 71st and bombed the target. On way back, this Group was met by fighters at tip-end of Brest Peninsula. In ensuing encounter, Capt. Brady's ship was set on fire and all Crew Members were seen to bail out. Germans were seen to shoot at descending parachutes and the 71st, coming to rescue, lost one plane of their own.
- 31 The officers held a New Year's Party at the "B" Mess, music by the newly formed Station Dance Band. An "alert" in the early part of the evening kept a damper on the party until an announcement around 2300 hours that the mission was "scrubbed". From this time on the tempo increased and the New Year was given a right royal welcome.

(List of Awards and Decorations for this month attached)

DAY	EVENTS
6	Major Ralph L. Oliver assigned to organization as Assistant Operations.
7	Capt Raper on DS to Ferry high ranking officials to scene of African Invasion.
9	This station, commanded by Colonel Overacker, officially transferred from the Royal Air Force to the United States Army Air Force. This is the first instance of an official transfer of a station from RAF to USAAF.
19	Lt Col Cleveland relieved from organization. Major Oliver appointed Operations Officer.
25	Our first Christmas turkey dinner in the European T of Ops USA.

SECRET

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V  
STAND BY FOR D/CAST

CPH NR PNT 2/15 NOT W/T 0905A  
ALL PLASS FLE  
TO, C.O. 37TH BOMB GROUP (P) C.O. 391ST BOMB GROUP (P)  
C.O. 93RD BOMB GROUP (P) 1.O. 306TH BOMB GROUP

SEC 0-215P

THE COMMANDING GENERAL EIGHTH AIR FORCE HAS TRANSMITTED THROUGH  
THIS HEADQUARTERS A MESSAGE SUBSTANTIALLY AS FOLLOWS FROM GENERAL  
ARNOLD. THE MANNER IN WHICH THE AIR FORCE CONDUCTED ITS RECENT RAID  
OF LIBLE WILL LONG BE REMEMBERED AS A CREDIT TO THE STRENGTH OF OUR  
AIRPLANES AND ~~WAS~~ THE LEADERSHIP DEMONSTRATED WHICH IS IN  
KEEPING WITH THE TRADITIONS OF ~~THE~~ THE AIR CORPS. GENERAL  
SPATZ' COMMENTS ARE TO THE EFFECT THAT THE OPERATION WOULD  
HAVE BEEN IMPOSSIBLE WITHOUT THE THOROUGH COOPERATION OF THE COMMANDS  
CONCERNED AND ~~WAS~~ THE EXCELLENT SPIRIT EVIDENCED BY BOTH  
THE GROUND AND AIR ECHELONS.. EAKER. END.

LONGFELLOW

00000  
CC 1ST MD INGTN LINE OF EXT SHLD BE KEEPING  
RS VA+  
O FOR K BEFORE GIVING R  
THU K 1008  
CPH 161008 CAN VA+

*201  
Dawson  
1/1/43*

R E S T R I C T E D

HEADQUARTERS 306TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H)  
Office of the Commanding Officer  
United States Forces

APO 634,  
2 December, 1942.

SPECIAL ORDERS )  
:  
NUMBER 177 )

1. 1st Lt MARLEN E. REBER, O-437584, AC, is hereby granted a lv of abs for three days, eff o/a 3 Dec, 1942.

2. 2nd Lt CLENN J. LALLY, O-726262, AC, is hereby granted a lv of abs for three days, eff o/a 3 Dec, 1942.

3. 2nd Lt WILLIAM W. SAUNDERS, O-726079, AC, is hereby granted a lv of abs for three days, eff o/a 3 Dec, 1942.

4. 2nd Lt LUTHER BERGEN, O-726988, AC, is hereby granted a lv of abs for three days, eff o/a 3 Dec, 1942.

5. In compliance with par 6, SO # 172, Hq, VIII Bomber Command, dd 29 Nov, 1942, 1st Lt GEORGE C. SCHUMACHER, O-381382, MC, 423rd Bomb Sq (H), 306th Bomb Gp (H), APO 634, is hereby reld fr dy and asgmt with that orgn and WPR and/or WPGM w/c delay to 92nd Bomb Gp. This is a permanent C of Sta. QMNT. TDN. FD 31 P 431-02 A 0425-23.

6. In compliance with par 3, SO # 127, Hq, 1st Bomb Wing, ETOUSA, APO 634, dd 1 Dec, 1942, 1st Lt PARLEY W. MONSEN, JR., O-40071, 367th Bomb Sq (H), 306th Bomb Gp (H), APO 634, is hereby reld fr dy and asgmt to that orgn and WPGM fr present sta to 303rd Bomb Gp (H), w/c delay. This is a perm C of Sta. QMNT. TDN. FD 31 P 431-02 A 0425-23.

7. In compliance with par 6, SO # 127, Hq, 1st Bomb Wing, ETOUSA, APO 634, dd 1 Dec, 1942, the fol named EM, 705th Ord Co Avn (AR) WTR RAF Sch of Bomb Disposal, Kirkham, Lancashire, to rpt by 1700 hrs 2 Dec, 1942 to CO thereat temp dy stu 21 day special course in bomb disposal, CTRC. Qrs and rat will be furn at the sch, Sol will be provided with round-trip travel warrants and will take with them field equip, 1 fatigue uniform, in addition to normal clo requirements, and cys of O. QMNT. TDN. FD 34 P 434-02 A 0425-23:

Cpl STUART H. LATIMER 16049133 Ifc HERBERT A. NELSON 18069350

8. Under the provisions of Article of War No. 70, 1st Lt THURMAN E. DAWSON, O-382748, 368th Bomb Sq (H), 306th Bomb Gp (H), APO 634, is hereby aptd Investigating Officer, eff this date, for the purpose of investigating charges and specifications against 1st THOMAS W. DAWSON, 16051258, 368th Bomb Sq (H), 306th Bomb Gp (H), APO 634.

9. Under the provisions of AR 35-6660, 1st Lt GEORGE L. SAWYER, 298416, 168th Q Detachment, 39th Ser Gp, is hereby aptd Group Sales Officer, eff this date.

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R E S T R I C T E D

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December 8, 1942.

22/11/42--G.O.#62 Colonel CL BL OVERACKER DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS Hqs.

12/11/42--G.O.#55	2nd Lt.	<u>Missing in Action</u> JAMES M. STEWART	AIR MEDAL	367th
	2nd Lt.	NORMAN R. NELSON	AIR MEDAL	423rd
	T/Sgt.	FRANCIS M. COUNSELMAN	AIR MEDAL	423rd

12/11/42--G.O.#55	S/Sgt.	<u>Injured in Hospital</u> HARRY M. MEYERS	PURPLE HEART & AIR MEDAL	369th
12/11/42--G.O.#55	S/Sgt.	JOHN T. DeJOHN	PURPLE HEART & AIR MEDAL	369th

12/11/42--G.O.#55	1st Lt.	ROBERT P. RIORDAN	AIR MEDAL	369th
12/11/42--G.O.#55	2nd Lt.	GEORGE J. SPELMAN	AIR MEDAL	369th
12/11/42--G.O.#55	T/Sgt.	ARIZONA T. HARRIS	AIR MEDAL	369th
12/11/42--G.O.#55	T/Sgt.	JOHN E. OWEN	AIR MEDAL	369th
12/11/42--G.O.#55	T/Sgt.	ANTHONY L. SANTORO	AIR MEDAL	369th
12/11/42--G.O.#55	S/Sgt.	WILLIAM E. BAKER	AIR MEDAL	368th
12/11/42--G.O.#55	S/Sgt.	RALEIGH W. HOLLOWAY	AIR MEDAL	369th
12/11/42--G.O.#55	S/Sgt.	JOHN P. MORRISON	AIR MEDAL	369th
12/11/42--G.O.#55	S/Sgt.	WILLIAM MUSICK	AIR MEDAL	369th
12/11/42--G.O.#55	S/Sgt.	CHARLES M. TAYLOR	AIR MEDAL	369th
13/11/42--G.O.#57	T/Sgt.	GERALD T. KRUSZYNSKI	AIR MEDAL	423rd
13/11/42--G.O.#57	T/Sgt.	WILLIAM L. NISBETT	AIR MEDAL	423rd
13/11/42--G.O.#57	S/Sgt.	WILLIAM H. FORRESTER	AIR MEDAL	367th
13/11/42--G.O.#57	S/Sgt.	ROY H. GIBSON	AIR MEDAL	423rd
13/11/42--G.O.#57	S/Sgt.	JAMES H. HOBBS	AIR MEDAL	423rd
13/11/42--G.O.#57	S/Sgt.	COLON E. NEELEY	AIR MEDAL	423rd
13/11/42--G.O.#57	S/Sgt.	HELMUTH V. RODER	AIR MEDAL	367th
13/11/42--G.O.#57	S/Sgt.	WALTER L. WYNN	AIR MEDAL	367th
20/11/42--G.O.#57	2nd Lt.	VAN DYKE McKELVEY	AIR MEDAL	368th

AWARD OF MERITORIOUS DECORATION  
DECEMBER 1-31, 1942

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1/12/42--G.O.#68	1st Lt. JACOB C. SHIVELY	PURPLE HEART	423rd
1/12/42--G.O.#68	S/Sgt. COLONE E. NEELEY	PURPLE HEART	423rd
1/12/42--G.O.#68	S/Sgt. WILLIAM E. WILLIAMS	AIR MEDAL	423rd
4/12/42--G.O.#70	Capt. ROBERT C. WILLIAMS	DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS	423rd
4/12/42--G.O.#70	2nd Lt. EMMETTE W. FORD	DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS	423rd
4/12/42--G.O.#70	2nd Lt. WARREN GEORGE JR.	DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS	423rd
5/12/42--G.O.#71	Major JAMES W. WILSON	AIR MEDAL	423rd
5/12/42--G.O.#71	Major WILLIAM A. LANFORD	AIR MEDAL	368th
12/12/42--G.O.#11	1st Lt. ROBERT P. RIORDAN	PURPLE HEART	369th
12/12/42--G.O.#11	1st Lt. HUGH J. TOLAND	PURPLE HEART	367th
12/12/42--G.O.#11	1st Lt. EDWARD P. MALISZLWSKI	PURPLE HEART	369th
12/12/42--G.O.#11	S/Sgt. BENJAMIN GARDON	PURPLE HEART	369th
12/12/42--G.O.#11	S/Sgt. LEONARD H. O'BRIEN	PURPLE HEART	367th
12/12/42--G.O.#11	Sgt. HAROLD F. LIGHTBOWN	PURPLE HEART	369th
15/12/42--G.O.#76	2nd Lt. ROBERT PAUL DRESP	PURPLE HEART	368th
15/12/42--G.O.#76	S/Sgt. RUPERT W. ARNOLD	PURPLE HEART	368th
15/12/42--G.O.#76	2nd Lt. LEMUEL B. SMITH	AIR MEDAL	367th
15/12/42--G.O.#76	T/Sgt. ROBERT B. MUMAW	AIR MEDAL	367th
15/12/42--G.O.#76	S/Sgt. JOE BOWLES	AIR MEDAL	369th
15/12/42--G.O.#76	S/Sgt. WILSON C. ELLIOT	AIR MEDAL	369th
15/12/42--G.O.#76	S/Sgt. REGINALD B. HARRIS	AIR MEDAL	369th
15/12/42--G.O.#76	S/Sgt. ALLAN F. MEAUX	AIR MEDAL	369th
15/12/42--G.O.#76	Sgt. PARLEY D. SMALL	AIR MEDAL	369th
15/12/42--G.O.#76	Sgt. HAROLD F. LIGHTBOWN	AIR MEDAL	369th
15/12/42--G.O.#76	S/Sgt. JOE BOWLES	OAK LEAF CLUSTER	369th
15/12/42--G.O.#76	S/Sgt. REGINALD G. HARRIS	OAK LEAF CLUSTER	369th
18/12/42--G.O.#77	1st Lt. WILLIAM J. CASEY	AIR MEDAL	369th
18/12/42--G.O.#77	2nd Lt. WALTER C. LEEKER	AIR MEDAL	369th
18/12/42--G.O.#77	2nd Lt. ALBERT G. SMITH	AIR MEDAL	369th
18/12/42--G.O.#77	2nd Lt. OLIVER E. TILLI	AIR MEDAL	369th
23/12/42--G.O.#78	Cpl. EUGENE B. THOMPSON JR.	SOLDIERS MEDAL	369th
23/12/42--G.O.#78	Capt. JOHN M. REGAN	AIR MEDAL	368th